

on the whole, the papers are of high quality.—*Janice S. Edgerly, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.*

LITERATURE CITED

- Roubaud, E. 1916. Recherches biologique sur les guêpes solitaires et sociales d'Afrique. La genèse de la vie sociale et l'évolution de l'instinct maternel chez les vespides. *Ann. Sci. Nat.* 1(10):1-160.
- Wilson, E. O. 1975. *Sociobiology. The New Synthesis.* Harvard University Press, 697 pp.

Insects of an Amazon Forest.—Norman D. Penny and Jorge R. Arias. 1982. Columbia University Press, New York, 269 pp. \$30.00.

The authors present the results of a full year of sampling in Brazil. Using five sampling techniques, aerial (1 and 15 m) light traps, soil emergence traps, Berlese-Tullgren extractions of leaf litter, Malaise traps, and baited pitfall traps, a large number of insects were obtained. Specimens were sorted by order, and, for a few orders, by family. Dry weight estimates were obtained for those groups collected during the last week of sampling. Undoubtedly the scope of sampling would preclude the identification of the majority of specimens unless a large team of taxonomists was involved. Still, the results of such a study could be highly informative.

The book jacket, and the publisher's advertisements, proclaim it to be a "classic study unlike any other for an area of Amazon forest . . . of major interest to tropical ecologists and entomologists as well as biologists concerned with evolution, classification, or the tropics." Given such a glowing introduction, readers will undoubtedly be disappointed. Indeed, it is unclear as to the exact nature of the readership for which the book was written, but it was not for those previously cited. Excellent drawings of representatives of many families are given, but their treatment is scarce—averaging about one paragraph per family. Even here, the treatment is very general, giving the estimated world-wide number of species for that family, as well as generalizations of their biology. The book is highly reminiscent of Swan and Papp's *The Common Insects of North America*, although its treatment is much less clear. If the attempt of the authors was to produce a similar book, they almost made it, but it is highly doubtful if swarms of amateur entomologists will be able to use their book, unlike *The Common Insects of North America*.

However, the large print, and the ample number of illustrations, as well as the lack of any substantive data, make the book easy reading, and, if one has any interest in entomology, the entire book can be read in from one to two hours. This book may make a good gift for a beginning amateur entomologist, but will not serve any useful function in the library of a professional.—*Harold Fowler, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.*